

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the above-identified application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 22, A separator for fuel cell, wherein the separator is a molded body comprising graphite and a resin; wherein the separator has a rib portion, a flat portion, and openings within the flat portion; and wherein the separator formed has a bending strain at the flat portion at break of 0.5% or more.

2. (Currently amended) The method separator for fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein the separator formed hashaving a compressive modulus at the flat portion of 20 GPa or less.

3. (Currently amended) The method separator for fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein the separator formed hashaving a Shore hardness at the flat portion ranging from 20 to 50.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 22, A separator for fuel cell, wherein the separator is a molded body comprising graphite and a resin; wherein the separator has a rib portion, a flat portion, and openings within the flat portion; and wherein the separator formed has a compressive modulus at the flat portion of 20 GPa or less.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~separator for fuel cell according to claim 4, wherein the separator formed hashaving a Shore hardness at the flat portion ranging from 20 to 50.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 22, ~~A separator for fuel cell, wherein the separator is a molded body comprising graphite and a resin; wherein the separator has a rib portion, a flat portion, and openings within the flat portion; and wherein the separator~~formed has a Shore hardness at the flat portion ranging from 20 to 50.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Previously presented) A separator for fuel cell made of a molded body comprising graphite and a resin, wherein the separator has a rib portion, a flat portion and openings within the flat portion, and wherein, after soaking the separator at 80°C for 100 hours in 30 times the volume of the molded body of water, total concentration of sodium, potassium, iron, nickel and magnesium released into the soaking water is 20 ppm or less, and concentration of sulfur released into the soaking water is 30 ppm or less.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Previously presented) The separator for fuel cell according to claim 8, wherein the graphite is expanded graphite.

11. (Previously presented) The separator for fuel cell according to claim 8, wherein the graphite is a pulverized powder of an expanded graphite sheet.

12. (Previously presented) The separator for fuel cell according to claim 8, wherein the resin is a thermosetting resin.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently amended) A fuel cell comprising a separator for fuel cell formed by the method according to any one of claims 4 and 6, ~~6 and 8~~.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently amended) The method~~separator for fuel cell~~ according to claim 1, wherein said bending strain at the flat portion at break is 0.6% or more.

17. (Currently amended) The method~~separator for fuel cell~~ according to claim 1, wherein said bending strain at the flat portion at break is in a range of 0.7% to 1.5%.

18. (Currently amended) The method~~separator for fuel cell~~ according to claim 4, wherein the compressive modulus at the flat portion is 15 GPa or less.

19. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~separator for fuel cell according to claim 4, wherein said compressive modulus at the flat portion at break is in a range from 0.5 GPa to 10 GPa.

20. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~separator for fuel cell according to claim 6, wherein the Shore hardness at the flat portion ranges from 20 to 45.

21. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~separator for fuel cell according to claim 6, wherein said Shore hardness at the flat portion at break is in a range from 20 to 40.

22. (New) A method for manufacturing a separator for a fuel cell, having a rib portion, a flat portion and opening portions within the flat portion, the method comprising the steps of:

pulverizing expanded graphite sheets to yield an expanded graphite powder;
mixing the expanded graphite powder with a resin to yield a mixed powder;
subjecting the mixed powder to compression molding to yield a sheet for molding; and

placing the sheet for molding on a mold plate, superposing at least one additional sheet for molding fitted in shape to the flat portion, and subjecting them to compression molding.

23. (New) A fuel cell comprising the separator for fuel cell according to claim 8.